

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

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S E C R E T SANA 3580

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, YE
SUBJ: EVOLUTION OF NEW YAR DIPLOMATIC STANCE

REF: SANA 3380

SUMMARY: YAR DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES PLANS TO
OPPOSE CUBAN AND SOVIET INITIATIVES IN HORN OF AFRICA IN BELGRADE
CONFERENCE AS WELL AS KEEP THE HEAT ON SOUTH YEMENIS
THROUGH ARAB LEAGUE. PLANS ARE PART OF NEW AND VERY WELCOME
DIPLOMATIC POSTURE. END SUMMARY.

1. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER IBRAHIM AL-KIBSI RECEIVED CHARGE
ON 22 JULY TO DISCUSS EVOLVING DIPLOMATIC MOVES OF YAR
FOLLOWING ITS SUCCESS IN WINNING CONDEMNATION IN ARAB LEAGUE
FOR PDRY ACTIVITIES.

2. YAR SPOKESMAN AT BELGRADE CONFERENCE WILL ANNOUNCE THAT
YAR REFUSES TO GO TO HAVANA FOR NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT MEETING.
YAR WILL ARGUE STRONGLY THAT CUBA IS NO MORE THAN CAT'S-PAW
FOR SOVIET UNION IN NEW IMPERIALIST EFFORT IN HORN OF
AFRICA. KIBSI SAID THAT YAR HAD ALREADY EXERTED CON-
SIDERABLE EFFORTS THROUGH ARAB STATES IN OAU TO WIN
SUPPORT FOR BOYCOTT OF HAVANA MEETING AND FOR CONDEMNATION

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OF CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA. HE IS BUOYED BY ALLEGED
OAU SPEECH BY PRESIDENT OF NIGERIA THAT CUBANS HAD TO
LEAVE AFRICA OR BE COUNTED AS NEW IMPERIALISTS. HE IS
ALSO CONFIDENT THAT OAU RESOLUTION ABOUT CUBANS WILL
BEGIN CAMPAIGN OF PRESSURE ON THEM IN RESPONSE TO THEIR
INTERVENTION.

3. ACCORDING TO KIBSI, YAR IS TAKING EQUALLY HARD LINE AGAINST EFFORTS INITIATED BY SOUTH YEMENIS TO BRING ABOUT "MEDIATION" OF NORTH-SOUTH YEMEN DISPUTE. ALGERIANS PROPOSED THEMSELVES AS POSSIBLE MEDIATORS AND WERE TOLD AS ASNAJ PUT IT AT HIS SESSION WITH AMBASSADORS HERE IN SANA ON JULY 10 (SEE REFTTEL) THAT YAR WOULD NOT TREAT WITH SOUTH YEMEN UNTIL LATTER SURRENDERS "ALL RPT ALL THOSE AT PINNACLE OF POWER IN ADEN WHO WERE GUILTY OF KILLING PRESIDENT AL-GHASHMI." ASNAJ SAID THAT ETHIOPIANS AND IRAQIS HAVE SIMILARLY BEEN REBUFFED AND WHEN SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM SHOWED UP IN SANA LAST WEEK ASNAJ OPPOSED CONTACTS WITH PDRY SO FIERCELY THAT SYRIANS DID NOT EVEN OFFER TO CARRY MESSAGES TO ADEN.

4. MOREOVER, KHADDAM WAS FORCED TO VISIT ADEN VIA DJIBOUTI WHEN YAR REJECTED HIS REQUEST TO FLY THERE DIRECTLY FROM SANA.

5. KIBSI SAID ANY MEDIATION WOULD WEAKEN DISASTROUSLY THE IMPACT OF DECISION BY ARAB LEAGUE TO BOYCOTT THE SOUTH AND YAR WOULD BE LAST TO ALLOW SUCH DEVELOPMENT.

6. COMMENT: THESE DIPLOMATIC MOVES REPRESENT UNFOLDING LOGIC OF YAR REALIGNMENT AFTER GHASHMI ASSASSINATION. TURN AGAINST ARAB RADICALS IN ADEN AND SOVIETS AND CUBANS WILL TAKE MANY FORMS. KIBSI CONFIRMED, FOR INSTANCE, THAT
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PLO OFFICE HERE HAS BEEN "FROZEN." WE COULD MAKE SUGGESTIONS ON PARTICULAR MULTILATERAL ISSUES WHICH WILL COME UP IN UN AND OTHER FORUMS BUT FOR MOMENT SEE MERIT IN LETTING THIS NEW YEMENI EFFORT BUD BY ITSELF. IT'S WORKING WELL, EVEN ASTONISHINGLY WELL. FOR INSTANCE, IN STATE WHICH ALWAYS ATTEMPTED MAINTAIN BALANCED CONTACTS WITH BOTH EAST AND WEST, NORTH AND SOUTH, RADICAL AND MODERATE, IT IS STARTLING TO LEARN (AS KIBSI TOLD ME TODAY) THAT YAR HAS RESPONDED TO ARAB LEAGUE INQUIRY TO NAME CANDIDATES FOR PEACE PRIZE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITIES WITH NOMINATION OF NONE OTHER THAN PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER.
RANSOM

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